

IN THE CLAIMS:

Patent Claims

In the patent claims, please amend claims 2-3 as follows:

2. (Amended) The container for storing [Christmas] ornaments as claimed in claim 1, wherein said support means is at least one hook.
3. (Amended) The container for storing [Christmas] ornaments as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bottom portion also has a plurality of upstanding projections extending therefrom for attaching looped ornament hangers.

New Claims

In the new claims, please cancel claims 9 and 28. Also, please amend new claims 4, 10 and 20 as follows:

4. (Twice Amended) An ornament holder, comprising:

a container having an opening and inside walls;

a closure releasably openable relative to the container, the closure adapted to
enclose the opening;

a hanger support disposed inside the container; and

a hanger removably mountable relative to the hanger support to provide an
open region between the hanger and at least one of the inside walls of
the container,

the hanger being configured to be mountable onto and removable from the

hanger support, the hanger adapted to hold an ornament, the hanger having at least one retainer disposed along the hanger intermediate ends of the hanger for limiting sliding displacement of the ornament along the hanger,

wherein the hanger comprises a support bar and the at least one retainer includes a plurality of ridges spaced therealong.

10. (Twice Amended) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the ridges are adapted to retain an ornament to prevent the ornament from sliding along the bar.

20. (Amended) An ornament holder, comprising:

A. a container having an opening and inside walls;

B. a closure adapted for covering the opening;

C. a support bar removably mountable inside the container for enabling ornaments to be removably hung on the support bar; and

D. a plurality of retainers spaced along the support bar, said retainers extending outwardly from the support bar to limit sliding displacement of ornaments along the support bar and to maintain a distribution of the

ornaments along the length of the support bar,

wherein the retainers comprise a series of ridges extending outwardly
from the support bar and forming a plurality of shortened spans on the
support bar between the ridges, said spans being adapted to support the
ornaments, and said ridges being adapted to limit sliding displacement
of the ornaments on the spans.

STATUS OF ALL CLAIMS PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c)

Claims 1-8, 10-27 and 29-31 are pending in this reissue application. Claims 9 and 28 are cancelled, as directed above.

Claims 2-4, 10 and 20 have been amended in this Amendment. For the Examiner's reference, a complete listing of all claims showing changes from the last Amendment is provided in Exhibit A, which is attached to this Amendment. Applicants have included Exhibit A strictly to show the Examiner how claims have been amended since the last Amendment. Since this is a reissue application, the final claim amendments have been made with respect to the issued patent, as required by MPEP § 1453 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.173, and not relative to the last Amendment. Details regarding the claim amendments, and the support for such amendments, are summarized below.

Patent Claims 1-3

Patent Claims 1-3 have been allowed by the Examiner. Applicants have amended Claims 2 and 3 to effect an editorial revision so that Claims 2 and 3 are in conformity with Claim 1. In particular, Applicants removed the adjective "Christmas" from the noun "ornaments". This change was made to Claim 1 in the Applicants' previous Amendment. Support for these amendments is found at Column 2, line 17, in which ornaments are generally described as "items" of which Christmas Ornaments are cited as a specific example.

New Claims 4-31

New Claims 4-18 were added in a preliminary amendment when the instant reissue application was filed. Independent Claim 4 has been revised in this Amendment to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 9, which recites a hanger having "a support bar" and a retainer having "a plurality of ridges spaced therealong." Support for this revision is provided at column 2, lines 16-36 and Fig. 2. Since the allowable subject matter of Claim 9 is now presented in Claim 4, Claim 9 has been cancelled in this Amendment.

Claim 10 has been revised in this Amendment to reflect the cancellation of

Claim 9. More specifically, Claim 10 has been amended to be dependent on Claim 4, instead of Claim 9. Support for this amendment is found in Figs. 1 and 2 and at column 1, line 59 to column 2, line 36.

Claims 19-31 were added as new claims in the Applicants' previous Amendment. Claim 20 has been revised in this Amendment to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 28, which recites that the retainers have "a series of ridges extending outwardly from the support bar and forming a plurality of shortened spans on the support bar between the ridges", where the spans are adapted to support the ornaments and the ridges are adapted to limit sliding displacement of the ornaments on the spans. Support for this revision is found in Figs. 1 and 2 and at column 1, line 59 to column 2, line 36. Since the subject matter of Claim 28 is now presented in Claim 20, Claim 28 has been cancelled in this Amendment.